

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 01144 300450Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 /011 W
-----300452Z 027691 /17
P 300431Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6368

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 1144

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINT MP US
SUBJECT: "POLITICAL CONDITIONS" SECTION FOR BACKGROUND NOTES

REF: STATE 312129

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY PREPARED TEXT OF "POLITICAL CONDITIONS"
SECTION FOR UPDATED BACKGROUND NOTES:

BEGIN TEXT: IN DECEMBER 1976 GENERAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD AND THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM), WHICH PROPOSED TO BRING ABOUT PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY THROUGH CERTAIN NATIONALIZATIONS AND ADVOCATED "THIRD WORLD" SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROBLEMS, WON 34 OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S 70 SEATS, WITH ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP) (A COALITION OF THE LABOR PARTY AND THE MUSLIM COMMITTEE OF ACTION) PLACED SECOND WITH 28 SEATSGN AND THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) CAME IN THIRD BY WINNING 8 SEATS. ELEVEN MINISTERS OF THE PREVIOUS LABOR GOVERNMENT LOST THEIR SEATS IN THE ELECTIONS, AND THE NEW FACES (57 OF THE 70) PREDOMINATED IN THE ASSEMBLY. GAETAN DUVAL, LEADER OF THE PMSD, LOST HIS BID FOR RE-ELECTION. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM, WHO HEADS THE LABOR PARTY, FORMED A GOVERNMENT IN COALITION WITH THE PMSD, WHICH POSSESSED A SLIM MAJORITY OF ONE IN THE ASSEMBLY. WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AREA OF MANEUVERABILITY SHARPLY LIMITED BY THE SMALL MARGIN IT HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT

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ELECTIONS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE HELD AGAIN WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD. END TEXT.
KEELEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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